

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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B₁
1. (cancelled)

2. The stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating has an irregular thickness.

3. A stent as set forth in claim 2 wherein the coating is completely missing at at least one location on the surface of the stent.

B₂
4. The stent as set forth in claim 3 wherein the coating is interrupted in a patterned configuration.

5. A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating is provided in the form of coating islands on the surface of the stent.

6. A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands are of a substantially round configuration.

7. A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.

B₃
8. The stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

9. A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

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10. The stent as set forth in claim 9 wherein the spacings of the coating islands are substantially the same everywhere.

11. A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

12. A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of: amorphous silicon carbide, hydrogenated amorphous silicon carbide and gold.

B5
13. ~~A stent having a surface with a coating, wherein the coating is irregularly formed on the stent surface.~~

14. A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.

15. A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

16. A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

B6
17. ~~A stent having a surface with an irregular coating formed thereon, wherein the irregular coating comprises coating islands, wherein the coating islands are substantially round, and wherein the coating islands are arranged at a greater spacing in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.~~

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18. A stent having a surface with an irregular coating formed thereon,
wherein the irregular coating comprises coating islands,
wherein the coating islands are substantially round, and
wherein the coating islands are smaller in regions involving a greater degree
of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent than in regions
involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.
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